

# MEETING MINUTES – WIA COMMITTEE

## September 25, 2014

**Board members present:** Jane Weber, Acting Chair; Jasyn Harrington; Jim Marks; Brandon Schmidt

**Board members absent:** Mike McGinley (Chair); Dan Bernhardt; Senator Edward Buttrey

**Staff:** Pam Watson

Acting Chair Jane Weber called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. She asked board members, staff, and the audience to introduce themselves.

There were no changes to the agenda which was approved by consensus.

Pam Watson, Workforce Services Division (WSD) staff gave an overview of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and its new reauthorized version, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). There are several deadlines going forward and the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) will play a larger role in activities under the new WIOA. The US Department of Labor (USDOL) is issuing guidance to states and Montana's USDOL region will be a great resource going forward. There are many changes coming to states under WIOA, and some of those are: Two new required partners, Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Vocational Rehabilitation; stronger focus on career pathways and sectors; increase use of work-based training to include apprenticeship and on-the-job training (OJT); and expanded one-stop system partners and MOU requirements.

The WIA subcommittee will likely be very active in bringing recommendations to the SWIB regarding guidance and policy for Montana.

There was discussion among committee members regarding some of the more significant changes and how they will be handled. Jim Marks and Pam Watson said that guidance from USDOL and US Department of Education will help this committee and the SWIB to ensure all aspects of reauthorization and the changes are covered.

Acting Chair Weber asked Pam Watson to give an overview of this agenda topic. Pam explained that one of this committee's responsibilities is to re-certify Montana's One-Stop Systems. These are local partnerships in communities across the states that coordinate workforce efforts by formalizing collaborative efforts to serve job seekers and employers. One Stop Systems are required under the WIA and will continue under WIOA. Re-certification typically takes place every two years, and based on the schedule, would be happening right now. Since WIOA will go into effect until July 1, 2015, states will have a one-year transition period (July 2015 thru June 2016) to get all plans, policies and guidance to one-stops in place. Committee discussed this and heard from the audience, and the common message was that it's a timely and large undertaking for One-Stops to go through re-certification. If SWIB requires the 23 One-Stops to go through re-certification now, they

will have to do it again within the next year and a half when WIOA goes into effect. Committee members felt this was too much to ask of One-Stops, and took action to postpone re-certification of One-Stops until July 1, 2016. This will also change the cycle of re-certification from the current January 1, to a state fiscal year cycle (July 1). Jasyn Harrington made the motion to defer One-Stop re-certification until July 1, 2016; Jim Marks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Pam Watson gave an overview of the current State Strategic Plan for Workforce that is required under WIA. The Plan is submitted to USDOL every 4 years and covers the workforce plan for Montana's WIA and Wagner-Peyser (Employment services/Job Service) programs. This will also be required under WIOA and will add 2 new required partners; Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Vocational Rehabilitation. These four programs will now have to submit one unified plan, which will be due by June 30, 2016. The current Plan is on the SWIB website at [swib.mt.gov](http://swib.mt.gov) for review. The SWIB is required to work with the Governor's Office and SWIB staff will write the plan, provide a public comment period, review the plan, and approve and submit the final plan to USDOL for Montana.

During the Next Steps agenda item, Acting Chair Weber asked Pam Watson to share a copy of a Snapshot document that used to be produced by the SWIB. The last one was developed in 2007, and is a spreadsheet/brochure that shows all of the workforce programs in Montana, and provides a brief description of each program. Committee discussion was held and all agreed that this would be a very useful tool for board members and others in the areas of workforce and economic development. Brandon Schmidt moved to recommend SWIB staff begin collecting current data and develop a similar document for use by SWIB as soon as possible, and next Spring begin working on a document that can be published in July 2015 that will show next program year's funding. Jim Marks seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Committee members asked for an electronic copy of the 2007 Snapshot document to be emailed to them, and Pam Watson will send it ASAP.

Hearing no further business, Acting Chair Weber asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim Marks made the motion to adjourn at 9:45; Jasyn Harrington seconded the motion which carried unanimously.